

BOSTON LETTER.

A Budget of Interesting Gossip from the Hub.

Sights and Scenes at the Maritime Exposition—Electric Appliances—The Australian System of Voting—Minor Notes of Interest.

(Special Correspondence.)

The four United States war vessels, the Chicago, the Boston, the Yorktown and the Atlanta, have at last left and steamed off for Portugal for a cruise in European waters. Their stay here was a continual ovation, their docks swarming with visitors daily.

The Maritime exhibition has begun its seventh week and its popularity has not yet abated. Here may be seen the naval products of this and other countries side by side for comparison. Ship-builders, sail-makers and manufacturers of seamen's appliances are all here with their interesting exhibits. The new and improved forms of anchors, boats fitted with harpoons for whale fishing, bell and whistling buoys, pumping machines, etc., all receive attention from the visitors.

The object of this enterprise, as declared by its projectors, "is to bring together and arrange as a great central feature examples of the production of over two hundred distinct industries in this country, associated in the construction and sailing of ships; to match them in friendly rivalry with those of other nations; to present for contrast American and foreign machinery, appliances, models of war and merchant vessels, etc.; to show by exhibits that the skill and materials at the command of our Atlantic and Pacific shipyards will enable us to open broad paths upon the seas when we are prepared to meet rival nations in resolute and equal competition; to demonstrate by many great object lessons that, given proper encouragement, we can fill every harbor of our five thousand miles of coast with the staunchest and fleetest ships that can sail any ocean; to display maps, charts and models of harbors, ship canals, etc., statistical tables of the comparative tonnage and ocean-carrying trade of the principal nations, and many instructive, unique, original and pleasing exhibits that will combine to make the most novel, effective, and, in fact, the most significant exhibition ever held in Boston."

Not since the Peace Jubilee has an enterprise of Boston merited the attention of the country to the extent of this exhibition, for it undoubtedly marks the beginning of a new era in the maritime interests of the Nation. It will help to give a new impetus to naval affairs in this country, and show the world what America has accomplished thus far and stimulate to further efforts in that direction.

One of the most prominent features of the exhibition is the art gallery, filled with marine paintings by the best artists. Never before was so large a distinctive collection gathered together. Many of the paintings possess great merit, and the number of visitors to this department is large.

One picture that attracts particular attention is a mosaic of 10,000,000 pieces of stone. The subject is the "Discovery of the Remains of St. Marcus," by Luigi Tadder, made in the establishment of Chevalier Olivieri in Venice, Italy, requiring seven years of labor. One eye of the fifteen figures composing it contains fourteen pieces of stone. The picture is valued at \$50,000, and efforts are being made to have it permanently placed in the Art Museum of this city.

The life-saving apparatus receives much attention, especially the Phillips iron life-car, inside which passengers are stowed in case of wreck, and the car is run on a life line between shore and ship.

The United States Signal Service shows apparatus and charts and prints weather bulletins twice a day. On the roof is also an electric search light that throws a bright illumination, like the tail of a comet, miles away into space, lighting up with great brilliancy every object within its reach.

Another popular feature of the exhibition is a grand canal 565 feet long, upon which fly various craft, including an ingenious naphtha yacht. This canal



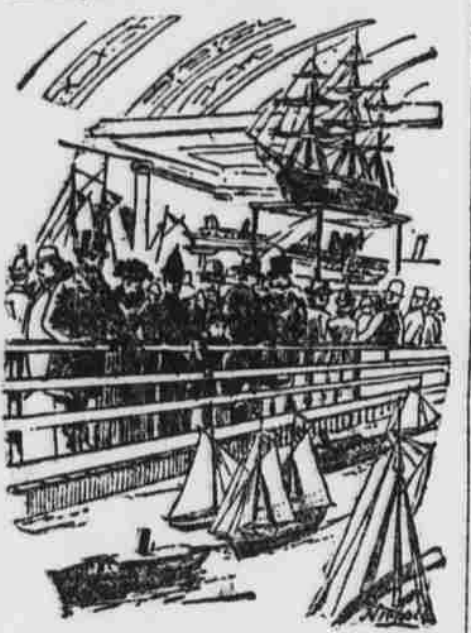
THE MARITIME EXPOSITION BUILDING.

is also utilized by professional swimmers, and the spectacle of walking upon the water may here be seen.

A curious exhibit is Captain Slocum's boat "La Liberte," built by himself and family in South America, and used by them in a five-thousand-mile voyage to

New York. On board are many interesting objects of sea life.

Leaving the exhibition and turning our attention to other objects of interest, I might mention the progress that electricity is making in Boston. Added to the thorough instruction in electrical engineering given in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other schools, are courses of lectures given for the purpose of educating men in the practical application of electricity. This instruction is needed, for, though no recent discoveries are so valuable as those concerning the application of electricity to useful purposes, nowhere is more care and knowledge necessary than in its use, and in no direction can inventive



THE GRAND CANAL.

talent be used to greater advantage to the race than in overcoming this danger. The current safely directed is a blessing, but destructive and deadly in its misuse, as the late Boston fire and alarmingly frequent accidents in other cities can testify. The greatest need to-day in mechanics is safety in the use of the electric current, so we may not so often have occasion to make use of this epitaph:

"Gone up higher—
Electric wire."

Boston is fast replacing horse cars with electric cars, much more satisfactory in their operation. It is exhilarating to ride in them with the hum of the wire overhead, the flashes of fire from the wheels and rails and the great velocity attained. In time they will altogether supersede horse cars.

The electric piano is the latest outcome from experiments with the subtle fluid. Several public exhibitions have been given with this novelty. It may, however, be several years before every piano is attached to a main line from which music may be switched on and off at will. It certainly looks as though Edward Bellamy had this invention in mind when he wrote "Looking Backward," and described a land in which every house was provided with a flow of music like our flow of gas, that could be turned on at pleasure.

Another nineteenth century invention is the phonograph-graphophone now being introduced by a phonograph company. The machines are rented at forty dollars a year, and are being used by business men, who dictate their correspondence through a speaking-tube. The machine records the words, and the type-writer, coming later, places her ear to the instrument and writes out the matter. Or the roll may be taken from the machine, mailed, placed in another instrument and there read in the original tones used by the speaker. Perhaps this invention will overcome the frigid effect produced by a love letter written on the type-writer. It certainly would be far more satisfactory to receive it in the tones in which it was spoken, and something more than the words, too, could in this way be conveyed.

The people of Boston have this year been trying the Australian system of balloting both in State and municipal elections, and the result is most satisfactory to all wishing a fair vote and a correct count. Every man votes independently and without constraint or undue influence. And not only every man, but every woman voter, for the women of Boston vote on school questions—though just why a woman should vote on school matters and no other is beyond my comprehension. She is either concerned in no question of public interest and therefore should not vote, or she is interested in all and entitled to vote on all. To assume that she is concerned in educational affairs only is absurd.

Passing a liquor store the other day I read the sign: "Special Rates to Professionals." What did it mean—that the regular imbiber is a "professional"—in other words, that drunkenness is in the city of John L. Sullivan regarded as a profession, and the drunkard as a professional man? If so, I shall not be surprised to hear the first "drunk" that I see in the policeman's hands addressed as "Professor" Swipes or "Professor" Toddy.

I read of a cigarette smoker whose coffin was, at his request, covered with cigarette papers, and after being imprisoned for some time in the vilest of poisonous cigarette smoke in a city editor's "den," I wondered if that was the first or last that would be so ornamented in fact if not literally.

Wendell Phillips' Day and Forefathers' Day were duly observed here, and the oratory then spoken carried us back in history to different conditions and more stirring times. A frequent retrospect is good to teach us where we stand, and does not always show a gain at every point. In this it is valuable.

FRANK H. FENNO.

THE FATE OF BOOKS.

Ups and Downs of Important Literary Works of Antiquity.

The ups and downs of many an important literary work of antiquity have been most singular. In a very unique way they demonstrate the correctness of the classical dictum "habent sua fata libelli." It is well known that the accidental discovery in a waste-basket in the Mount Sinai cloister of several leaves of the Codex Sinaiticus led to the finding by Tischendorf of that most famous manuscript of the New Testament. A recent publication by the French savant, Omont, has drawn attention to the strange fate of another old manuscript, and at the same time indicates the laborious methods to which scholars must resort in order to rediscover some of the lost remains of ancient literatures. In one of the well-known cloisters on Mount Athos, where more than twenty thousand Greek manuscripts are preserved and awaiting further research, there existed at one time a sixth-century copy of the Pauline epistles. In the thirteenth century monkish ignorance destroyed this valuable document, and used the leaves as binding for later and inferior books. A number of these manuscripts in the seventeenth century found their way to Western Europe, and came into possession of the French Chancellor, Pierre Segnier, and are now found in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. In the year 1715 Montfaucon found in these buildings fourteen leaves of this old epistle manuscript. Some years later other leaves were found, namely, two in the Synodical Library at Moscow; four in the possession of Bishop Porfiri and of the Abbot Antonius, of Kiev; two in the University Library at Turin; nine in the library of the Lawra cloister on Mount Athos. In this way thirty-one leaves of this manuscript had been rediscovered, but scattered over all Europe. To these Omont has added ten more, one of which was found in the Rumjanzen Museum at Moscow, and nine in the collection which the French specialist in Greek literature, Emmanuel Miller, had found in an Athos cloister, and had been secured by the National Library in Paris. Of these nine leaves, however, two had in the beginning of this century in some way or other found their way to St. Petersburg, where also one of the leaves of the nine originally belonging to Bishop Porfiri was rediscovered; and of the nine leaves which Duchesne in 1875 found in the cloister Lawra, one is now in Paris.

Accordingly, the forty-one leaves of this sixth-century manuscript are found scattered in no fewer than eight libraries, namely, twenty-two in the National Library of Paris, eight in the Lawra cloister on Mount Athos, two in the Synodical Library at Moscow, one in the Rumjanzen Museum at Moscow, three in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, three in the Academy of Kiev and two in the university at Turin. And yet these leaves contain only about one-tenth of all the epistles, namely, 234 verses, divided as follows: 16 from I. Corinthians, 43 from II. Corinthians, 28 from Galatians, 29 from Colossians, 13 from I. Thessalonians, 44 from Hebrews, 40 from I. Timothy, 9 from II. Timothy and 13 from Titus.

By a similar process Prof. de Goije, of Leyden, has succeeded in rediscovering the works of Tabari, who for Arabic historiography is what Thucydides is for the Greek and Livy for the Latin. His history was supposed to have been lost, with the exception of a few fragments. De Goije, through correspondence with nearly all the libraries of Europe and many in the Moslem lands, has been able to gather together again all the parts and portions of this standard work, to which the library of the leading mosque in Tunis furnished the chief contribution. Literary coadjutors are at work in dozens of libraries copying and collating the fragments, and it is supposed that five years will elapse before the whole of this valuable work will be given to the historian and Orientalist.—Harper's Weekly.

The Varied Value of Silver.

Silver, in its relative value to gold, has varied greatly at different times. In the days of the Patriarch Abraham it was 8 to 1; B. C. 1000 it was 12 to 1; B. C. 500 it was 13 to 1, and at the commencement of the Christian era it was 9 to 1. In the year 500 A. D. it was 18 to 1; in 1100 it was 8 to 1, and in 1400 it was 11 to 1. In 1454 gold was only six times more valuable than the precious white metal, silver, and within the next hundred years two pounds of silver could be exchanged evenly for one of gold. In 1600 gold was again worth ten times as much as its paler brother. In 1725 gold was thirteen times more valuable than silver, just as it was 500 years B. C. At the beginning of the present century it had risen in value to a higher point than at any time since 500 A. D., being fifteen times more valuable than silver. In 1876 the ratio of silver to gold was 20 to 1 and in 1886 it was at the highest point ever known, since which time it has gradually declined to 20 to 1.—St. Louis Republic.

A Financial Discussion.

Chronio Borrower—Can you lend me twenty dollars for a few days?
Weary Friend—Why don't you paw your watch?
"Because it is a keepsake from my dear mother, and I don't like to part with it."
"My money is a keepsake from my dear father, and I don't like to part with it, either."—Texas Siftings.

Boils and Carbuncles.

It seems strange that any one will suffer with boils, carbuncles, etc., when Dr. Bull's Sarsaparilla will certainly prevent all such eruptive tendencies. It is a sure and safe antidote for blood poison arising from whatever source, and its use when needed should not be unnecessarily delayed. Thousands who found extensively advertised blood medicines to have no efficacy whatever, are rejoicing in the fact that Bull's Sarsaparilla is an exception, and that good health invariably follows its use. Syphilitic and scrofulous symptoms disappear, the skin becomes clear and free from pimples, the digestion is improved, aches and pains cease, the weight of the body becomes greater, the flesh more solid, ulcerative and consumptive tendencies disappear, the power of endurance is increased, weakness, dizzy spells and unnatural fatigue vanish, in a word the user of Bull's Sarsaparilla becomes a picture of good health and strength. Try it. Use no other.—Dayton Enquirer.

For the few who have sworn off there are many who are swearing right on.—Hutchinson (Kan.) News.

HARK! to the sound of humanity's wails! Millions of people with aches and with ails. Headaches and humors, a merciless flood. Weakness of lungs and disorders of blood. Yet there's a helper that certainly saves. The user is of people from premature graves. The remedy is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures coughs, relieves asthma, checks bronchitis, purifies the blood, heals sores, eruptions and unsightly pimples and is without a rival for all the ills that spring from a disordered liver. All druggists.

Don't hawk, and blow, and spit, but use Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. Of druggists.

QUEER, isn't it, that a politician should absorb liquids to make himself solid with the boys?—Washington Capital.

If you are suffering from Malaria, ask your druggist for Shallenberger's Antidote for Malaria. If he doesn't have it, and tells you he has something just as good, don't believe him, but send one dollar to Dr. A. T. Shallenberger, Rochester, Penn'a, and get the Antidote by mail. A few doses will restore you to perfect health. The Medicine is in the form of pills, but is not a purgative. It not only destroys Malaria, but is an excellent tonic.

The model husbands are the men who never marry.—Fond du Lac Reporter.

Flags: Who Supplies Flags for Schools? They are mostly sold by G. W. Simmons & Co., Oak Hall, Boston Mass., at special rates. Enquiries are sent to them from all parts of the country.

A MAN may not go to prayer-meeting, but influenza will bring him to his sneeze.

"I HAVE been occasionally troubled with Coughs, and in each case have used Brown's Bronchial Troches, which have never failed, and I must say they are second to none in the world."—Felix A. May, Cashier, St. Paul, Minn.

The undertaker's favorite exercise is boxing.—Yenowine News.

When you think your children have worms, ask your druggist for Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers and do not take any other. They taste good and are always sure.

A "SHORT" speech—"Lend me a quarter till to-morrow."—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

NEVER fail to cure sick headache, often the very first dose. This is what is said by all who try Carter's Little Liver Pills.

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